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LATEST NEWS

➤ **Expanding Your Benefits Connection, GovBenefits.gov Second Anniversary April 29, 2004**

GovBenefits.gov is expanding your benefits connection! As the two-year anniversary of the award-winning GovBenefits.gov website is celebrated, we are pleased to announce that the site is expanding to better serve you. The new GovBenefits.gov includes Spanish-language content with the debut of GovBenefits.gov En Español and additional State program information. The new GovBenefits.gov site was redesigned to make it easier for you to find the government benefit and assistance programs that meet your specific needs. In addition to all citizen-focused Federal benefit programs, GovBenefits.gov contains benefit program information from all 50 U.S. States, helping citizens across the country save time and avoid the hassle of trying to figure out which government agency to contact for assistance.

The expansion of GovBenefits.gov increases the ability of the site to help citizens learn more about the government benefit and assistance programs that may be available to them. GovBenefits.gov En Español offers Spanish-speaking communities even greater access to Federal and State benefit programs, while the expanded State benefit information gives citizens additional avenues to locate State-level assistance programs.

Since its launch in April 2002, GovBenefits.gov has provided more than 10 million visitors with information on government benefit and assistance programs, and generated nearly 1.7 million citizen referrals to benefit programs. GovBenefits.gov contains information on more than 500 Federal and State benefit and assistance programs.

For information about the GovBenefits.gov Second Anniversary Event, please contact us via email at GovBenefitsMedia@dol.gov.

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PRESS RELEASE

> Nov 13, 2003

GovBenefits.gov Adds New State Programs and Redesigns Homepage; Site Now Includes Information on 48 State and 419 Federal Programs

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Labor, in conjunction with the Office of Management and Budget, today announced the launch of a new version of GovBenefits.gov, a Web site developed to serve citizens as the first government-wide resource for citizen benefit information and eligibility screening. In addition to all citizen-focused federal benefit programs, this new version of GovBenefits.gov also includes state benefit programs from: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota and Utah. The State benefit program information that can now be found on the site includes: Food Stamps, Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Children's Health Insurance Programs. With these enhancements, GovBenefits.gov has taken concrete steps toward providing a single place for both Federal and State benefit program information.

GovBenefits.gov has also undergone important upgrades:

Homepage Redesign - Includes new look and feel, and more ways for visitors to obtain Federal and State benefit information.

More Streamlined Questionnaire - Results in significantly fewer questions for visitors to answer and allows visitors to stop at any time while completing questionnaire and see what benefits are available up to that point.

Greater Access - Provides additional ease of use for those who employ screen readers or other assistive devices.

GovBenefits.gov Survey - Helps measure customer satisfaction and guide future improvements.

To view all of these the new site features, visit: <http://www.govbenefits.gov/>.

"GovBenefits.gov is dedicated to making government benefit information easier for citizens to obtain" said Patrick Pizzella, Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management and Chief Information Officer at the Department of Labor. "One important way the site has done that is by exploring the previously uncharted territory of providing a single place for both Federal and State benefit program information."

GovBenefits.gov is one of 24 key initiatives that comprise the President's E-Government Strategy, an integral part of President Bush's Management Agenda, which focuses on: creating a more accessible government, saving taxpayer dollars, and streamlining citizen-to-government transactions. GovBenefits.gov is the collaborative effort of 10 federal agencies including: Departments of Labor (managing partner), Agriculture, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, State, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, and the Social Security Administration.

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The National Council on the Aging

Press Room: News Archive

BenefitsCheckUp® Tops One Million Mark September 16, 2003

WASHINGTON, DC -- Since its national launch in June 2001, BenefitsCheckUp - the first Web-based service designed to help older Americans, their families, caregivers and community organizations determine quickly and easily what programs and benefits seniors may qualify for and how to claim them - has issued more than one million eligibility reports.

"This is a significant milestone, but we have a long way to go" said NCOA President James Firman. NCOA and its partners, including America Online's corporate investment department that hosts BenefitsCheckUp on a pro bono basis, anticipate that five million will use the service over the next four years.

More than 100,000 seniors have found significant prescription savings using BenefitsCheckUpRx, a new feature added in February that allows you to search only for savings programs related to medications.

BenefitsCheckUp is a free and confidential service which can be accessed through the Internet at www.benefitscheckup.org. When visiting the site, users complete a brief questionnaire which generates a personalized report specifying a list of programs they may be eligible for and detailed instructions on how to enroll.

Among the programs included are those that help seniors find income support, prescription drug savings, government health programs, energy assistance, property tax relief, nutrition programs, in-home services, Veteran's programs as well as volunteer, educational and training programs.

Of all persons screened thus far, some 26 percent were eligible for, but not receiving food stamps, and 17 percent were eligible for, but not receiving Medicaid. Almost 40 percent were eligible for Weatherization benefits.

A national mobilization effort to expand the reach of the site now involves hundreds of organizations and provides outreach to low-income seniors. There are currently grassroots programs in Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Philadelphia, and the state of Washington. In addition, the new and improved BenefitsCheckUp @ Organizational Edition is now available on an annual subscription basis to organizations that can use it to reach out into communities to help even more seniors.

NCOA and its national outreach partners such as AARP, Catholic Charities, USA, Lutheran Services in America, The Salvation Army, Volunteers of America, United Jewish Communities, Jewish Family and Children's Services, Alliance for Children and Families, and the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging are mobilizing more than 2,000 community organizations across the country to find and help isolated seniors who could benefit from the service. A Spanish language version of BenefitsCheckUp for use by community organizations will be available in the fall of 2003.

BenefitsCheckUp ® is supported by the following: AARP, AOL Time Warner Foundation, Archstone Foundation, FJC - A Foundation of Donor Advised Funds, Lucent Technologies Family Care Development Fund, Pfizer, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), TogetherRX, and the U.S. Department of Commerce. They make BenefitsCheckUp ® available as a free service to the public. The Web site is hosted by AOL's GovernmentGuide.com.

The Organizational Edition and the community outreach effort are funded by Atlantic Philanthropies, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and The Commonwealth Fund.

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Founded in 1950, The National Council on the Aging is the nation's first organization dedicated to promoting the dignity, independence, well-being, and contributions of older Americans. NCOA serves as a national voice and powerful advocate on behalf of older Americans. NCOA is an innovator, developing programs such as BenefitsCheckUp, Foster Grandparents and Family Friends. NCOA is an activator, working with its thousands of community organization members nationwide to provide needed services to older people. For more information on NCOA, visit www.ncoa.org.

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